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KYRGYZSTAN

SNAPSHOT

Need for an Upgrade

USAID provided Kyrgyzstan's new Parliament with badly needed computers, enabling the Parliament to get back to work faster



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Parliamentary staff members, Mr. Azamat Bazarbaev (right) and Mr. Aybek Akmolodov (left), from the Legal Department enjoy their new computers.

The USAID Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Program facilitated the assistance of the USAID Office of Transition Initiatives to provide information technology equipment supplied to the Legal Department and Human Resources Division of the Parliament's administration. This assistance significantly enhanced the work performance of these two key parliamentary departments.

Widespread looting in April 2010 crippled Kyrgyzstan's state bodies, including the country's parliament. Though computers and equipment were stolen and offices destroyed, key offices such as the Legal Department and Human Resources Division struggled but kept working.

The USAID Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Strengthening Program met with department heads and staff to assess needs and decide how to best proceed in order to help bring these key operations back up to speed.

The Parliament's Legal Department drives the Parliament's entire legislative basis, yet its Expertise Division was left with two operating computers for 10 staff members. The Human Resources Division manages staff selection and hiring, including career promotion and trainings for Members of Parliament and Administration staff, as well as other human resources-related activities for 120 members of Parliament and 300 additional staff. Yet the Division's mere six staff members were very poorly equipped for their jobs.

In December 2010, the USAID provided two grants totalling \$54,266 for information technology equipment that ramped up the two departments in time to support and lead crucial initiatives to strengthen and vitalize the new parliament.

On January 24, 2011, during an official event with U.S. Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan Tatiana Gfoeller, Parliament's Vice Speaker Myktybek Abdylbaev, Parliament staff, and USAID representatives, the two grants were officially transferred to the Parliament.

Legal Department and Human Resources Division staff now use their new equipment daily, with the offices' directors and deputy directors reporting that their respective scopes of work would be impossible to fulfil without this IT equipment and the training that has energized their respective operations.